

# *News Clippings*

## *6/5/08*

### **FIRE**

#### **Anderson**

12:25 a.m.: Investigators expected at fire scene today

[Read the Article](#)

### **SEVERE WEATHER**

#### **Bloomington**

Flash flooding, tornadoes ravage area

[Read the Article](#)

#### **Cincinnati**

Small Ind. Town Hammered By Tornado

[Read the Article](#)

#### **Indianapolis**

It's not over: Storms could return

[Read the Article](#)

Storm Devastates Rush County Community

[Read the Article](#)

Camp Atterbury Heavily Damaged By Tornado

[Read the Article](#)

Rush Co. town dealing with storm destruction

[Read the Article](#)

Rush County woman, daughter make narrow escape

[Read the Article](#)

#### **Lafayette**

IN storms damage National Guard Camp

[Read the Article](#)

#### **Louisville**

Tornadoes hit central Indiana

[Read the Article](#)

**Merrillville**

New storms, tornado rip through central Indiana

[Read the Article](#)

**Muncie**

Randolph County hopes to dry out soon

[Read the Article](#)

**Terre Haute**

Tornadoes cause damage, injuries in central Indiana

[Read the Article](#)

Storms batter central Indiana, causing widespread damage

[Read the Article](#)

## 12:25 a.m.: Investigators expected at fire scene today

By Shawn McGrath

ANDERSON — Federal, state and local fire investigators are expected to go to the scene of the former Phillips Warehouse, 1200 E. 26th St., Thursday to try to determine what caused the massive blaze at the site.

Special Agent Kim Riddell, public information officer for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, said it will be a joint investigation conducted by the ATF, Indiana Fire Marshal's Office and Anderson officials.

Riddell said up to 20 members of a regional ATF national response team will be at the site later today. Officials are expected to meet this morning at the Anderson Police Department to share information, she said.

"They'll develop a plan of action," Riddell said, "then they'll go to the scene."

Anderson Deputy Fire Chief Dave Cravens said firefighters remained at the scene Wednesday, dousing some hot spots. He said all hot spots won't be fully extinguished until the investigation into the fire's cause is complete. He said firefighters want to disturb the scene as little as possible to avoid damaging any potential evidence.

"We're just waiting now for the investigation to get done so we can get in there and turn things over," Cravens said. "If we get in there now, and put out hot spots, it could hamper the investigation."

The deputy chief said city officials received 10 to 15 calls questioning air safety on Wednesday. Cravens said officials monitored air quality throughout the day and found no contaminants.

Heavy machinery will be brought to the site to clear debris and fully extinguish any residual hot spots once the investigation is finished, he said.

"Then we'll get in there with bulldozers and get down to the nitty gritty," Cravens said. "There probably are some little fires underneath (the rubble). We're kind of in pause mode because we don't want to destroy any evidence."

[Return to Fire](#)

## Flash flooding, tornadoes ravage area

Sandy Dunwoody | IDS | 6/5/2008

Spectators gathered around the flooded west side of campus Wednesday evening. People waded in water up to their waists and others took photos with their camera phones at the intersection of Seventh Street and Woodlawn Avenue.

Recent graduate Joyashish Thakurta rolled up his pants and carried his dress shoes in order to ford the river from the IMU to Seventh Street. He had just visited the bookstore and was on his way home.

"Walking through was my only option," said Thakurta.

Sophomore Wayne Levinson and senior Adam Naugle ripped off their shirts and dove off bridges near Dunn Meadow. They slid through mud on their chests, and discovered floating debris such as a turtle. They were working out at the HPER building when the storm began, and found that their cars were blocked by the flood.

"It's crazy," said Levinson. "I couldn't believe cars were trying to drive through this."

IU Police Department Sgt. Don Schmuhl reported calls of cars stalled in intersections with passengers, flooding of Third Street businesses, water damage of University buildings, fallen trees and lightning damage to Foster dormitory that could affect its fire alarm system.

"This is the most water I've seen in the 30 years I've worked here," Schmuhl said.

The flood brought out Bloomington residents as well. Clara Garcia of Cottage Grove Drive brought her sons Diego, 10, and Pablo, 8, to Dunn Meadow to swim. She said in her 25 years living in Bloomington she had never seen anything like this flood.

Claire Shean, 7, had just come back from summer camp at Hoosier Courts and happened to have her swimsuit on. Claire and her brother Jack, 12, ate mulberries and watched the chaos.

"This is much more fun than a swimming pool," Claire said.

Meanwhile, tornadoes in a storm front that swept through central Indiana on Tuesday destroyed numerous homes, skipped over National Guard barracks full of soldiers and critically injured at least one person, authorities said.

The wave of thunderstorms kept moving across the state's midsection for hours until late Wednesday morning and caused widespread flash flooding as five inches of rain was reported overnight in some areas.

[ENLARGE IMAGE](#)



Elijah Barry, an IU staff member, leaves his flooded SUV in the alley behind the Von Lee building after a severe thunderstorm on Wednesday afternoon.  
Coline Sperling •

A tornado hit the small community of Moscow in Rush County, where it left a landmark 19th century wooden covered bridge in splinters and injured at least 10 people, according to the state homeland security department.

Diane Hester, 66, was impaled in the upper chest by a 3-inch diameter tree limb when a tornado leveled her home along the Flatrock River, said Charles Smith, chief of the Posey Township Volunteer Fire Department.

Hester was in critical but stable condition at Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis, hospital spokesman Gene Ford said.

Smith, who helped rescue Hester, said she was awake when she was found in storm debris near the river.

"Her house was gone, along the side of the river bank. There's nothing left of it," he said. "She didn't talk, but she was moaning. I just hope she makes it."

The storm raked the community of about 80 residents about 35 miles southeast of Indianapolis, destroying one home, damaging several others and downing trees and utility lines. It also blew off the top floor of a four-story brick schoolhouse, littering the area with red bricks.

The overnight storms also damaged 40 buildings, including the post chapel at the Indiana National Guard's Camp Atterbury near Edinburgh about 25 miles south of Indianapolis, Lt. Col. Deedra Thombleson said.

A trailer was picked up by the storm and landed on the roof of a public works building, she said. Two soldiers were hurt as they were driving back to the base to seek shelter when their car struck a gate. One of the soldiers was taken to a hospital and the other returned to the base, she said.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

[\*Return to Severe Weather\*](#)



## Small Ind. Town Hammered By Tornado

### *Woman Impaled By Tree Limb*

POSTED: 11:13 am EDT June 4, 2008  
UPDATED: 2:34 pm EDT June 4, 2008

**MOSCOW, Ind.** -- Authorities say at least eight people were injured, one critically, when a tornado hit the small Rush County community of Moscow Tuesday night.

A firefighter said a woman in her 60s was impaled in the upper chest by a 3-inch diameter tree limb when a tornado leveled her home.

Diane Hester is in critical but stable condition at Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis.

A fire chief who helped rescue Hester said she was awake when she was found in storm debris near the river.

"Her house was gone, along the side of the river bank. There's nothing left of it," Charles Smith said.

The tornado destroyed several other homes in Moscow, destroyed a 19th century covered bridge and ripped the top floor from an old brick school.

The town consists of only 48 homes, and state police said almost all were damaged to some extent.

The overnight storms also damaged 40 buildings, including the post chapel, at the Indiana National Guard's Camp Atterbury about 25 miles south of Indianapolis.

Two soldiers were hurt as they were driving back to the base to seek shelter when their car struck a gate. More than 2,000 troops are at the camp.

The storm also damaged several homes near the Shelby County town of Waldron.

[Return to Severe Weather](#)



June 5, 2008

## Storm aftermath

# It's not over: Storms could return

*Star report*

Hot, stormy weather that has brought damage, injuries and at least one death to Indiana since Friday could be around through next week, forecasters said Wednesday.

More trees and power lines came down throughout the state Wednesday, while floodwaters rose higher during the third night of storms in a week.

A woman died after she drove her car into rushing floodwaters north of New Castle on Wednesday morning. It was the first death connected to the storms, state emergency authorities said. The victim's name had not been released Wednesday evening.

At least 10 people were hurt in Tuesday's storms in Central Indiana, which spawned at least two tornadoes. Among them was Diane Hester, 66. A tree limb impaled her in the upper chest when a tornado leveled her home in Moscow.

She was in critical but stable condition Wednesday at Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis, authorities said.

In Moscow, an unincorporated community of about 50 people in Rush County, residents were in shock over the destruction of a covered bridge that has spanned the Big Flatrock River since 1886.

Even those without power and with extensive damage to their homes lamented the loss.

"Everybody will fix their homes and rebuild all that, but everybody is just devastated about the bridge," Brandi Runnebohm, 42, said as chain saws buzzed in the background.

Runnebohm grew up in Moscow, and her parents' home sustained damage Tuesday.

Thousands of people visit Moscow the last weekend of each June to participate in a festival themed to the covered crossing.

"The bridge gives us who we are," she said. "It's been here for so long, we can't even believe it's gone. It was here before we all were."

Indiana National Guard's Camp Atterbury reported that two soldiers suffered minor injuries as they sought shelter from a tornado Tuesday night, and about 50 buildings and dozens of cars and military vehicles were damaged or destroyed, with losses estimated in the millions of dollars.

More than 2,000 troops are at the camp, including a Marine unit training for deployment to Iraq, Guard Capt. Greg Lundeborg said.

Forecasters say there are more storms to come.

A front paralleling the Indiana-Michigan state line will put daytime highs in the 90s for the next week, according to the National Weather Service. The warmest weather of the year, about 10 degrees warmer than normal for early June, will help increase the chance of more storms on Friday, Saturday and Monday.

"We have a good chance of getting into that summerlike pattern we've been waiting for," said Brad Herold of the weather service in Indianapolis. "That front is barely budging."

In Indianapolis, which was hit by a tornado Friday on the Northeastside, the problem Wednesday was flooding.

"High water" signs spotted Marion County, and work crews spent much of the day unclogging storm drains.

"The issues we had today were related to Friday's tornado," with storm debris clogging the sewer system, said Steve Hardiman, spokesman for the Indianapolis Department of Public Works.

"We had flooding issues all over the city," he said.

Mayor Greg Ballard announced a \$10 million plan Tuesday to separate street and sanitary sewers on the Near Eastside. This would prevent overflows, which dump untreated sewage into creeks and rivers.

The front yard of Susan Stamm, the coordinator for the Ravenswood-White River Neighborhood Association, looked like a lake Wednesday. "I'm waiting for the ducks to land," she said.

White River in Indianapolis was under a flood warning through Friday.

By Wednesday night, every county in Central Indiana had a flood alert of some type. The most serious was a flash flood warning south of Indianapolis, stretching over five counties, roughly from Bloomington to Greensburg.

In Edinburgh, a strip of Ind. 252 leading into the town was the hardest-hit by Tuesday's tornado, said Town Manager John Drybread.

"A lot of trees down, roofs off, garages moved," he said.

The same storm overturned vehicles, including sturdy Humvees, twisting some beyond recognition at nearby Camp Atterbury. Building insulation and debris littered the area, and trailers used for training classes had been uprooted and tossed hundreds of yards. Gov. Mitch Daniels was to tour the camp this morning.

More than half of the 2,800 electricity customers in Edinburgh lost power but should have it restored today, said the manager of the town of 4,500, most of which is in southern Johnson County.

A woman in Edinburgh suffered scratches after her car window was blown out at a Shell gas station on Ind. 252 near I-65, Drybread said.



Edinburgh resident Jennifer Allen, 34, suffered minor muscle strains. Allen and her three sons -- ages 17, 15 and 12 -- had tried to make it to her mother's house less than a mile away when they heard the tornado sirens Tuesday night, but they didn't leave in time.

"My son comes running in the house and said, 'It's too late. It's coming,' " she said Wednesday.

Allen and the boys then headed to the bathroom. "I happened to look up. My roof was coming off, and I saw the tornado right by our house."

[\*Return to Severe Weather\*](#)



Severe weather, including high winds, storms and tornadoes hit south central and eastern Indiana last night, causing damage across several counties.

A line of severe weather is moving across the state. A severe weather watch is in effect.

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security activated its Emergency Operations Center late Tuesday evening to monitor, respond to county requests and determine the overall impact of the severe weather and process damage reports from the county emergency management agencies.

#### State Agencies Active in Response Operations:

- Indiana Department of Transportation – SR 244 reopened 1 lane
- Indiana State Police – Rush Co. SR 244
- American Red Cross
- Indiana National Guard – Supplying Generator to Fire Dept.
- Department of Natural Resources – standby
- Department of Corrections – standby
- IDHS Response

#### Disaster Declarations:

- Vermillion - flooding
- Randolph – flooding
- Greene – Wind /Tornado

#### Health, Safety & Security:

-Injuries: Rush Co.: 8 persons transported due to injuries, total number of injuries 10 to 15. Greene Co.: 1 Person transported to Hosp. 2 other injured individuals refused treatment.

#### Shelter Operations:

- Shelter requested in Rush Co.
- Shelter requested in Shelby Co. for up to 40 displaced persons possibly in Waldron
- Shelter requested in Johnson Co.
- Red Cross on scene; Marion Co. shelter housed 115 overnight from Fri night's tornado.

#### Search and Rescue:

- Randolph Co. Sheriff considering Water Rescue

#### Damage Report

- Greene: Sheriff had reports of tornadoes near Bloomfield and Ownesboro. One barn down and one home damaged. Power outages, trees down. 1 house was destroyed. Roof off REMC. Highways/traffic in & out of Bloomfield has been closed.
- Brown: Unconfirmed report of several homes destroyed and a power substation with severe damage.
- Johnson: Edinburgh: Several Buildings Destroyed or Damaged.
- Rush: Moscow, several structures destroyed.
- Shelby: Area north of Waldron is damaged confined to 3 block radius

#### Critical Infrastructure and Facilities

-Road Closures: SR 244 In Rush County closed between SR3 and I-74 has been closed. INDOT is on scene to clear debris and has 1 lane open. INDOT reports SR252 has been closed to clear debris from side streets in Edinburgh. All traffic in/out of Bloomfield (Greene Co.) closed. SR 37 @ SR 446 near Heltonville - Hwy 159 Southbound between SR 400 S & 465 S SR 54 E&W into Bloomfield -SR 157 North of Bloomfield - US 231 Southbound from Bloomfield - SR 445 East of Eastern School.

#### Public Utility Status:

-Duke Energy: 9,618 w/o power Statewide 5 a.m. 6/4/08.

-IPL Energy: 9,000 Customers w/o power 2,500 still from Friday's storm and approx 6,500 from Tuesday nights storms as of 10:40 a.m. 6/4/08.

#### Essential Services

##### Northern Indiana

There is a slight chance for severe thunderstorms with large hail and damaging winds tonight. Heavy rainfall may cause localized flooding.

##### Central Indiana

There is a slight risk of severe weather across central Indiana today. More thunderstorms are expected across central Indiana this morning and this afternoon. The storms will have the capability to produce damaging straight line winds, isolated tornadoes, large hail, very heavy rain resulting in flash flooding and deadly lightning. The thunderstorm threat is expected to diminish tonight.

##### Southern Indiana

Isolated to scattered thunderstorms with dangerous lightning and brief heavy rainfall will be possible today. Some of these thunderstorms may be strong with gusty winds and small hail.

Source: Indiana Department of Homeland Security

[\*\*\*Return to Severe Weather\*\*\*](#)



## Camp Atterbury Heavily Damaged By Tornado

### *Storm Pummels Several Communities*

POSTED: 12:45 pm EDT June 4, 2008

UPDATED: 6:55 pm EDT June 4, 2008

**EDINBURGH, Ind.** -- Severe thunderstorms with damaging winds [pummeled several Indiana communities](#) late Tuesday, including the [Indiana](#) National Guard's Camp Atterbury near Edinburgh, about 25 miles south of Indianapolis.

Approximately 40 buildings at the sprawling complex, including the post chapel, were damaged, Lt. Col. Deedra Thombleson said.

A trailer was picked up by the storm and landed on the roof of a public works building, she said. [The National Weather Service](#) surveyed the damage Wednesday and determined that an EF-2 intensity tornado struck. EF-2 tornadoes can have winds of up to 135 mph.

Two soldiers were hurt as they were driving back to the base to seek shelter when their car struck a gate. One of the soldiers was taken to a hospital and the other returned to the base, she said.

More than 2,000 troops are at the camp, including a Marine unit training for deployment to [Iraq](#) and the tornado skipped over buildings where the troops were sleeping, Guard Capt. Greg Lundeberg said.

Some soldiers watched the storm move in and then took cover.

"It was kind of in the middle of the street -- looked like it was about a half-mile away," said 1st Lt. Anthony Buchanan.

Officials said damage to the facility will likely run in the millions of dollars, but training continues as planned.

In Edinburgh, more than 40 homes and businesses were damaged. Several cars were hit by falling trees.

One person was injured and a car was damaged at a Shell gas station near exit 80 off Interstate 65 when a set of gas pumps was pulled out of the ground by strong winds. Numerous people took shelter from the storm at the Shell station.

"One of the workers here at the store came in and said, 'It's coming,'" said Joni Dietz, who rode out the storm in the gas station. "We all kind of put our heads down. We could hear the rumble."

Thirty-four buildings in Shelby County were damaged, with four of them deemed structurally unsound. Twenty-five of the damaged buildings are in Middletown.

Daniel Danner's had lived in his home for 36 years. He and his wife, Rhonda, hunkered down in the bathtub during the tornado.

Waldron resident Tony Derby said his girlfriend was just about to leave for work late Tuesday when they rushed into his basement with her child to escape the storm.

"It started like a normal storm and then the wind picked up, the skies blackened and I kind of stuck my head out and I heard a big roar back behind the hill behind my house," he said.

When they emerged, he found that a tree limb had gone through his roof and into his kitchen, his front porch was heavily damaged and that a fallen tree had crushed his Ford Explorer.

#### **Other Tornadoes Reported Earlier Tuesday**

Storm spotters near St. Paul, in Decatur County, reported a tornado that touched the ground several times between Waldron and St. Paul after 9 p.m. Police in Decatur County reported downed trees and power lines, but no injuries.

A 6News viewer sent in a dramatic video of that storm from along Interstate 74.

Another possible tornado was reported in far northeastern Brown County, near Peoga. Law enforcement officers reported damage with that storm. A storm spotter reported a tornado on the ground in Princes Lakes, in far southern Johnson County at about 9:30 p.m.

Several rounds of thunderstorms swept through Indiana earlier in the day Tuesday as a vigorous storm system bore down on the state, packing strong winds and at least two tornadoes.

Numerous severe thunderstorm warnings were issued in the region as a fast-moving line of storms pummeled portions of south-central Indiana early Tuesday afternoon.

A weak tornado briefly touched down a few miles south of Waverly, in Morgan County, ripping apart trees and bending power poles near Indiana 37 and Big Bend Road. The National Weather Service rated that tornado an EF-0 on the intensity scale, with winds of 85 mph.

"I was in the house taking a shower," said Debbie Stringer. "In about five seconds, it was over with. It just blew in with big loud thumps and the lights went out."

Indiana Business College in Columbus was damaged when an air conditioning unit was blown off, leaving a hole in the roof as the storm moved through. About 45 students and employees were inside at the time.

"My big thing was I had to get my students safe," said Anita Miller of Indiana Business College. "Afterwards, I thought ... what happened?"

A storm spotter reported downed power lines and roofs off some buildings on Rocky Ford Road, north of Columbus.

A tornado also touched down before noon northeast of Bedford, in Lawrence County. Damage to houses and trees was reported on Bartlettsville Road and Todd Lane, along with Mount Pleasant Road and Wallner Quarry Road. Information about the intensity of that storm was not immediately available.

*Stay with Storm Team 6 and TheIndyChannel.com for the latest severe weather information.*

[Return to Severe Weather](#)



## Rush Co. town dealing with storm destruction

Posted: June 4, 2008 06:01 PM EDT



Only tree crews and Duke Energy workers are allowed into town.

RUSH COUNTY, Ind. (WISH) - Tuesday night's storm left a path of destruction in the town of Moscow in Rush County. One woman is in critical condition and her neighbors are cleaning up.

Police, sheriff's deputies, National Guard troops and firefighters have set up a command center about two miles from the storm damage in order to coordinate clean up efforts. They are also controlling traffic in and out of the storm-damaged area.

Only tree crews and Duke Energy workers are allowed into town.



Wednesday night, more work remains to clean up and restore power.

A covered bridge that stood in Moscow for more than 100 years was washed away. It was the main attraction at the Covered Bridge Festival.

"This bridge has stood here 122 years and withstood a lot of what nature had to offer. It's just unbelievable that it is totally destroyed," said Sheriff Jeff Sherwood of Rush County.

The bridge represented just a fraction of the damage.



Brian Colestock and his family huddled in the bathroom when the storm rolled through.

"When I came out, amazingly, you could see in every direction...that's how high our tree line was in a circle around our house. And if you look around...there is no panoramic view. It's gone," said Colestock.

Colestock found his neighbor, Diane Hester, about 30 feet away from her home, down the river embankment. Hester is now in critical condition.

"For the number we've had injured, and I believe the last count was between 10 and 12, she is the worst. But due to the destruction we've had...just very thankful," said Sheriff Sherwood.

Wednesday night, more work remains to clean up and restore power. The National Guard remains in Moscow, working in shifts to help local law enforcement agencies control traffic and help with the clean up effort.

Report by [Gene Rodriguez](#), WISH. Edited by Andrew Bonner.

[Return to Severe Weather](#)

## **Rush County woman, daughter make narrow escape**

Updated: June 4, 2008 06:25 PM EDT

Moscow - Two tornadoes touched down overnight Tuesday, damaging dozens of buildings and causing at least one critical injury.

One tornado started at Prince's Lakes and ended at Edinburgh. A second twister hit from Waldon to Milroy, including the town of Moscow, and also Cottage Grove. The National Weather Service is conducting numerous surveys to determine the strength and path of the tornadoes.

In Rush County, the sheriff's department estimated ten to twelve injuries. Among the injured are Diane Hester, 66, who was impaled in the upper chest by a 3-inch diameter tree limb when a tornado leveled her home along the Flatrock River, said Charles Smith, chief of the Posey Township Volunteer Fire Department. Hester was in critical but stable condition at Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis, hospital spokesman Gene Ford said. Smith, who helped rescue Hester, said she was awake when she was found in storm debris near the river.

"Heard her groaning," said Joe Hester, her stepson. He said she is suffering from several broken bones, including a broken hip.

Estimating the damage will take some time because crews are still dealing with flooded roads. Many of the homes that were damaged are located along rural country roads. At this point the sheriff says about 20 structures are damaged. Some homes were nearly leveled by the storm. Cars could be seen upended and metal was twisted around trees. The storm also killed dozens of animals, including horses, goats and dogs as well as other family pets. Residents are trying to rescue the animals they can find.

### **Close call for woman, daughter**

Jack Clarkson's daughter and granddaughter headed for the basement when the twister struck, leveling their home. "They got in the basement all right, and the [oil] tank just [blew] in on them and they were pinned under it and then they had to work their way out from under that tank. She doesn't remember how they did it - they just climbed up the wall as best they could," he said. "That's where they were in that debris," he said, pointing to the oil tank that rolled into the basement. "They're lucky to be alive - that tank could have killed them."

"I can't believe that she made it out alive. I just can't. In fact I don't even know how they got out. I think that they crawled up this broken step right here and over the side," said Mike Clarkson.

"We were very glad. We were fighting for our lives to get out," said Jenny Gilbert.

"Everything just started falling," Gilbert said. She and her daughter Taylor recounted their narrow escape from their collapsed home Tuesday night.

After the tornado destroyed their home, they were trapped in their basement. "I came up and got my head above the rubble and there kind of above us, was a big propane tank that had exploded. We were in white smoke and I said, 'Taylor, we gotta get out of here,' and her hair was stuck; she's got long hair. She was screaming below me, 'I can't get out,' and I had to rip her hair out."



Once Taylor was out, she had to help her mother, who had a broken foot and couldn't scale the wreckage. "I kind of dragged her over the wall," Taylor said.

"We had to get away from the house because I was afraid it was gonna explode," she said. Mother and daughter crawled on hands and knees to a nearby gulley, where neighbors found them and brought them to safety.

They are battered and bruised and their home is leveled. Gilbert showed a photograph of her home and adjacent buildings - now, it is a scene of devastation. "Nothing left," she said.

Still, they are grateful for what the storm left behind. "The belief in God and new appreciation of life."

Another casualty in the twister was a 122-year-old covered bridge. The village of Moscow has been celebrating the bridge as part of its heritage, but now the 330-foot bridge off State Road 244 is torn apart and lying in the river bed. The structure was most recently restored in 2002. It's unclear if the The Moscow covered bridge festival scheduled for the end of the month will take place. The estimated cost to rebuild the bridge is \$3 to \$4 million.

[Report storm damage here](#)

[Share your photos](#)

*Compiled from a live report by [Cat Andersen](#).*

[\*\*\*Return to Severe Weather\*\*\*](#)



## IN storms damage National Guard Camp

Updated: June 4, 2008 10:02 PM EDT

Posted by: [Mike Mardis](#)

Residents in Moscow, Indiana are spending their Wednesday assessing damage after a tornado touched down overnight.

Trees and power lines are down after a line of violent thunderstorms moved through the area. Officials said at least eight people were hurt, including one who is in critical condition and about forty buildings were damaged at the Indiana's National Guard Camp Atterbury.

About 2,000 troops are at the camp, but only two soldiers were injured.

[\*Return to Severe Weather\*](#)



June 4, 2008

## Tornadoes hit central Indiana

*The Associated Press*

MOSCOW, Ind. — Tornadoes tore through central Indiana last night and overnight, destroying numerous homes, damaging buildings at a military training base and critically injuring at least one person, authorities said.

The wave of thunderstorms also produced widespread flash flooding as five inches of rain was reported overnight in some areas.

A tornado hit the small community of Moscow in Rush County, reducing numerous homes to rubble and injuring at least eight people, one critically, said Mike Ooley, the county's emergency management director.

Jolene Icenogle, who lives just outside of Moscow, said the roads around the town were strewn with downed power lines, fallen limbs and other storm debris when she was driving home from work late yesterday.

"I was just lucky my home wasn't hit," she said. "There's insulation in our yard from somewhere. We don't know where but it's not ours. There's a lot of damage to houses."

The storm also destroyed a 19th century covered bridge that leads into the community about 35 miles southeast of Indianapolis, along with tearing the top floor and roof from an old brick schoolhouse.

Ooley said the storm tore apart the community of about 80 residents, with many homes destroyed and numerous trees and utility lines knocked down.

"These homes were leveled down to their foundations," Ooley said.

Several Amish families also live in the area and flooding and storm debris damaged their crops and left cattle and horses missing.

The overnight storms also damaged 40 buildings, including the post chapel, at the Indiana National Guard's Camp Atterbury near Edinburgh about 25 miles south of Indianapolis, Lt. Col. Deedra Thomblason said.

A trailer was picked up by the storm and landed on the roof of a public works building, she said. Two soldiers were hurt as they were driving back to the base to seek shelter when their car struck a gate. One of the soldiers was taken to a hospital and the other returned to the base, she said.

More than 2,000 troops are at the camp, including a Marine unit training for deployment to Iraq and the tornado skipped over buildings where the troops were sleeping, Guard Capt. Greg Lundeberg said.

The storm also damaged several homes near the Shelby County town of Waldron, which is about midway between Edinburgh and Moscow.

Waldron resident Tony Derby said his girlfriend was just about to leave for work late yesterday when they rushed into his basement with her child to escape the storm.

"It started like a normal storm and then the wind picked up, the skies blackened and I kind of stuck my head out and I heard a big roar back behind the hill behind my house," he said.

When they emerged, he found that a tree limb had gone through his roof and into his kitchen, his front porch was heavily damaged and his Ford Explorer was crushed by a fallen tree.

The latest wave of storms included two tornadoes yesterday afternoon that hit rural areas in Morgan County and Lawrence County south of Indianapolis. The new storms followed a Friday night thunderstorm that included a tornado that heavily damaged an Indianapolis apartment complex and caused other damage and scattered flooding in much the same area.

The National Weather Service had flood warnings in effect this morning for most of central Indiana.

The weather service confirmed that tornadoes hit the Moscow and Edinburgh areas based on eyewitness reports and a crew will head out today to investigate the storm damage, meteorologist Dave Tucek said.

About 30 people voluntarily evacuated their homes in the western Indiana city of Clinton because of flash flooding along Feather Creek, while others chose not to leave, said Ray Colombo, Vermillion County's emergency management director.

Flash flooding closed many roads, both in rural areas and in cities in the swath from Terre Haute through Indianapolis to Richmond that saw the heaviest rainfall.

Firefighters in Randolph County, along the Indiana-Ohio state line, had been out since 4 a.m. rescuing people from high water, Sheriff Jay Harris said. More than five inches of rain fell overnight, leaving U.S. 27 under at least 18 inches of water north of Lynn and most roads in the county's southern half closed except for emergency vehicles

"We've had to pluck probably 10 to ... 20 people out of vehicles, out of their houses," Harris said. "We've had to rescue some livestock this morning."

[\*Return to Severe Weather\*](#)

# Post-Tribune

## New storms, tornado rip through central Indiana

(<http://www.post-trib.com/news/987999.INDSTORMS604.article>)

June 4, 2008

By DEANNA MARTIN Associated Press writer

MOSCOW, Ind. (AP) - Storm-weary central Indiana started cleaning up Wednesday after a second bout of severe weather in five nights crossed the region, with a tornado ripping apart much of a tiny Rush County community. One person died and at least 10 were injured because of the storms.

More storms moved into the state Wednesday afternoon, carrying the threat of high winds and heavy rain. The wave of thunderstorms that began Tuesday caused another tornado that skipped over National Guard barracks full of soldiers along with widespread flash flooding as 5 inches of rain was reported overnight in some areas.

One woman died in Henry County when she drove her car into rushing floodwaters north of New Castle Wednesday morning, state police said.

Another woman was critically injured when a tornado late Tuesday destroyed her home in Moscow, a community of fewer than 20 homes in Rush County. Diane Hester, 66, was impaled in the upper chest by a 3-inch diameter tree limb when the tornado leveled her home along the Flatrock River, said Charles Smith, chief of the Posey Township Volunteer Fire Department.

Hester was in critical but stable condition at Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis, hospital spokesman Gene Ford said.

Smith, who helped rescue Hester, said she was awake when she was found in storm debris near the river.

"Her house was gone, along the side of the river bank. There's nothing left of it," he said. "She didn't talk, but she was moaning. I just hope she makes it."

Neighbors, friends, family and church members came to Moscow to help clear branches, twisted metal and other debris in the community about 35 miles southeast of Indianapolis.

The tornado, with wind speeds of at least 90 mph, also tore away the roof and top floor of an old red brick schoolhouse and broke apart the town's landmark 1886 wooden covered bridge, sending it into the river below. The community had planned its 23rd annual Moscow Covered Bridge Festival later this month.

Jolene Icenogle, who lives just outside of Moscow and has been involved with the festival in past years, said she wasn't sure what planners would do now.

"There's nothing left of it except the cement pillars," she said. "I was pretty devastated."

Brian Colestock, whose house is between Hester's and the covered bridge, said he heard the storm approaching Tuesday night and gathered in a first-floor bathroom with his wife and two children, ages 13 and 8. All four stood in the bathtub as their house shook, roof tiles blew off and glass windows broke.

When the noise stopped, Colestock walked out of his damaged house to see tall trees downed, the covered bridge in the river and his neighbor's house completely gone. Colestock's back deck was smashed and the air conditioner was pulled off its base, he said.

"It's just amazing that it did that much damage in a matter of a minute," he said. "I was just thankful to God that my family was safe. Nothing else is more important than that."

As the storm moved through the surrounding farmland, it turned several houses to rubble, left cars and other vehicles overturned in waterlogged fields and leveled acres of trees.

Another tornado late Tuesday damaged 40 buildings at the Indiana National Guard's Camp Atterbury, about 25 miles south of Indianapolis. Two soldiers suffered minor injuries as they sought shelter, Guard Capt. Greg Lundeborg said.

More than 2,000 troops are at the camp, including a Marine unit training for deployment to Iraq, and the tornado skipped over buildings where they were sleeping, Lundeborg said.

The storm also damaged several homes near the Shelby County town of Waldron, which is about midway between Edinburgh and Moscow.

Flash flooding was reported in parts of Indiana on Wednesday and firefighters in Randolph County headed out at 4 a.m. rescuing people, Sheriff Jay Harris said.

The latest storms followed a Friday night thunderstorm and tornado that heavily damaged an Indianapolis apartment complex and caused other damage and scattered flooding in much the same area.

The storms knocked out electricity to more than 50,000 homes and businesses in central and southern Indiana.

Duke Energy reported power failures for some 31,000 customers since Tuesday afternoon. Power had been restored to all but about 5,000 customers by Wednesday afternoon.

About 15,000 Indianapolis Power & Light customers were affected by the storm, and 9,500 remained without power Wednesday afternoon, including 1,300 customers who have been without power since a Friday night storm knocked out service to about 65,000.

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[\*Return to Severe Weather\*](#)

## Randolph County hopes to dry out soon

Published Wednesday, June 4, 2008

by [Brien McElhatten](#)

People in Randolph County are trying to dry out as flood waters recede. According to Rick Brown, Director of the Randolph County Emergency Management Agency, over five inches of rain fell early Wednesday morning.

The torrential downpour lasted for more than four hours, flooding streams, fields and streets. In Lynn, the streets resembled streams themselves, as water overflowed the banks of a retention pond.

"I've been here 26 years, and I've never seen anything this deep," Lynn Firefighter John Nicholson said. "It's kind of weird to see [water] running the way it is down the street."

Although the water seemed to be receding by 11:00 a.m., county resident Mark Dehaven says the water was 7-feet deep in some places.

"The bad thing about this is, you know, nobody carries flood insurance," Dehaven said. "So, a lot of people, if they don't get disaster relief aid, it's going to really financially hurt a lot of people."

According to the Indiana Department of Homeland Security, teams are in Randolph County surveying the damage. Should a state of emergency be declared, state funding would be made available to assist residents in need, but it won't happen for days or even weeks, as survey teams need time to calculate the cost of damaged property. Stay tuned to Newslink Indiana and [www.newslinkindiana.com](http://www.newslinkindiana.com) for more updates.

[\*Return to Severe Weather\*](#)



## **Tornadoes cause damage, injuries in central Indiana**

*Associated Press - June 4, 2008 12:14 PM ET*

MOSCOW, Ind. (AP) - Authorities say at least ten people were injured, one critically, when a tornado hit the small Rush County community of Moscow last night.

A 66-year-old woman was impaled in the upper chest by a 3-inch diameter tree limb when a tornado leveled her home. Diane Hester is in critical but stable condition at Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis.

The tornado destroyed several other homes in Moscow, destroyed a 19th century covered bridge and ripped the top floor from an old brick school

The overnight storms also damaged 40 buildings at the Indiana National Guard's Camp Atterbury about 25 miles south of Indianapolis.

Two soldiers were hurt as they were driving back to the base to seek shelter when their car struck a gate. More than 2,000 troops are at the camp.

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## **Storms batter central Indiana, causing widespread damage**

*Associated Press - June 4, 2008 6:34 PM ET*

MOSCOW, Ind. (AP) - Central Indiana is starting to clean up from a second bout of severe weather in the past few days, although more bad weather may be on the way.

More storms moved into the state this afternoon, downing trees and power lines and causing more flooding in some areas. The wave of thunderstorms that began yesterday caused a tornado that skipped over National Guard barracks at Camp Atterbury along with widespread flash flooding. Five inches of rain was reported overnight in some areas.

One woman died in Henry County when she drove her car into rushing floodwaters north of New Castle this morning.

Another woman was critically injured yesterday when a tornado destroyed her home in Moscow, a community of fewer than 20 homes in Rush County. Sixty-6-year-old Diane Hester was impaled in the chest by a tree limb when the tornado.

The storms knocked out electricity to more than 50,000 homes and businesses in central and southern Indiana.

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